

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPERATING VIRTUAL
DEVICES BY MASTER CONTROLLERS IN A CONTROL SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

5 A master controller ~~(28)~~ in a control area network
system in a larger control area network ~~(16, 18)~~ may have
a plurality of devices ~~(33)~~ coupled thereto. The master
controller may further include a device manager ~~(51)~~
10 which provides a virtual device ~~(58)~~. The virtual device
operates to link a state associated with the virtual
device to a plurality of states associated with the
devices such that the respective states are maintained in
a substantially similar condition. The substantially
15 similar condition is maintained by propagating a change
in the state of the virtual device to a change in the
state of the devices and a change in the state of one or
more of the devices is propagated to the virtual device
and all other devices.